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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,421	02/05/2002	Mei Chuah	426882005100	2981

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Alan S. Hodes
Morrison & Foerster LLP
755 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1018

EXAMINER

FELTEN, DANIEL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/072,421

Applicant(s)

Chuah

Examiner

Daniel Felten

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 4, 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1
2
3
4 1. Receipt of the amendment filed December 4 2002 amending claims 1, 20, 22, 26-28, 30
5 and 33-34 is acknowledged. Claims 1-46 are pending in the application and are presented to be
6 examined upon their merits.
7
8

9 *Response to Arguments*

10 2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-46 have been considered but are moot in
11 view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
12
13

14 *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

15 3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
16 obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

17 (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
18 section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art
19 are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a
20 person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
21 negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
22

23 4. Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marshall
24 (US 5,675,746) in view of Hatori et al (hereinafter "Hatori", US 5,977,974).

Regarding Claims 1, 11, 20, 28, 35 and 41:

Marshall discloses in claims 1, 11, 20, 28, 35 and 41 a method to generate a display (see Marshall, figs 3A-D), on a display device (see Marshall, *screen display*, col. 13, ll. 28-51), representing investments in a plurality of industries (see Marshall, col. 5, ll. 5-20; and col. 6, ll. 15-21), comprising:

allocating a plurality of *linear* portions of the display device to correspond to a plurality of separate industries (see Marshall col. 6, 15-21) ;

allocating a sub-portion of each *linear* portion to a sub-industry of the industry to which that portion corresponds (see col. 6, ll. 21-24; and col. 12, ll. 36-47) ; and

within the sub-portion, displaying a shape for each venture capital portfolio company in that sub-industry , wherein the shapes are arranged in a polygon, including determining the spatial relationship among the shapes in the polygon based on a particular characteristic associated with the portfolio companies (see Marshall, col. 6, ll. 23-50);

also as in claim 20, allocating a plurality of portions of the display to correspond to a plurality of separate *time* segments (see Marshall, col. 11, ll. 30-55);

also as in claim 28, allocating a plurality of portions of the display to correspond to a plurality of separate *ranges* of a first characteristic (see Marshall, *configure*, col. 6 , ll. 10-50)

Marshall fails to disclose the generated display as spirals representing *venture capital* investments.

1 Hatori discloses an apparatus and method for spatially and temporally displaying a
2 plurality of data items (*display icons--metaphors*) in a display window on a display screen as (or
3 within) a spiral (see Hatori, Abstract; col. 5, ll. 16+).

4 Marshall discloses a method wherein the user utilities a virtual reality world to create and
5 manipulate icons (*metaphors*) to visually represent various aspects of real time financial data
6 through changes in their shapes, colors, positions, animations and textures (see Marshall, col. 6,
7 ll. 10 to col. 7, ll. 30). It would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to
8 employ the teachings of arrangement of data items in a spiral, as disclosed by Hartori, because an
9 artisan at the time of the invention would have considered various methods to spatially represent
10 and communicate the various financial information in the absence of unobvious and unexpected
11 results. Therefore, to display icons in an animated spiral, as disclosed by Hartori, would
12 constitute an alternative method of representing various aspects financial/industry data well
13 within the ordinary skill in the art.

14 Furthermore, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill at the time of the
15 invention to recognize that a subgroup in any growing industry will be portions which represent
16 small start-up companies which provide investors with investment opportunities to get in on the
17 "ground floor" of a new company before it becomes a large, well sought after, company. Thus
18 for an artisan to modify Marshall's invention so that the display represents venture investments
19 would be considered an art recognized equivalent to the other industrial and financial
20 investments Marshall discloses, and thus an obvious expedient well within the ordinary skill in
21 the art.

Regarding Claim 2, 12:

The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of allocating a sub-portion of each portion includes allocating a plurality of sub-portions,
each sub-portion allocated to a separate sub-industry of the industry allocated to that portion (see
Marshall col. 6, ll. 14-49).

Regarding Claim 3, 13:

The method of claim 2, wherein:
the step of allocating the plurality of sub-portions includes arranging the subportions according to
a characteristic of the sub-industries to which the sub-portions are allocated (see Marshall col. 6,
ll. 21-22).

Regarding Claim 4, 14:

The method of claim 1, wherein:
the particular characteristic is a first particular characteristic; and
the shape displaying step includes displaying each shape with an indication of a second particular
characteristic (see Marshall col. 6, ll. 14-49).

Regarding claim 5-8, 10, 15-18:

the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since the venture capital portfolio
company was seeded; and the second particular characteristic is total venture capital investment

1 for that company as of a particular time (see Marshall, col 11, ll. 29-55; col. 6, ll. 10-50; col. 4,
2 ll. 55-63; and col. 11, 29-45).

3
4 **Regarding Claim 9, 19:**

5 the indication with which each shape is displayed in the shape displaying step includes color (see
6 Marshall, col. 6, ll. 10-50).

7
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10 **Regarding Claim 21:**

11 the characteristic includes a return on investment measurement for the venture capital (see
12 explanation on claim 1).

13
14 **Regarding Claim 22:**

15 the step of displaying an indication of a value of a characteristic of the venture capital firm
16 includes displaying a rectangle having a length based on the value of the characteristic (see
17 explanation on claim 1).

18
19 **Regarding Claim 23:**

20 the characteristic includes return on investment (see explanation on claim 1).

21
22 **Regarding Claim 24:**

1 the characteristic is a first characteristic; the method further comprises displaying the rectangle
2 with a color based on a second characteristic of the venture capital firm (see explanation on claim
3 1).

4
5 **Regarding Claim 25:**

6 the step of displaying an indication of a value of a characteristic of the corresponding venture
7 capital investments includes displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the
8 characteristic (see explanation on claim 1).

9
10 **Regarding Claim 26:**

11 the plurality of portions are first portions, and the at least one venture capital investment
12 firm is a first venture capital firm; and the method further comprises allocating a plurality of
13 second portions of the display to correspond to the plurality of time segments; and

14 at each of the plurality of second portions, displaying an indication of a value of the first
15 characteristic of at least one second venture capital firm in the time segment to which that second
16 portion corresponds (see explanation on claim 5).

17
18 **Regarding Claim 27:**

19 wherein the first portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the
20 second portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments (see explanation on
21 claim 5).

Regarding Claim 29:

The method of claim 28, wherein: the first characteristic includes time (see explanation on claim 5).

Regarding Claim 30:

the step of displaying an indication of a value of the second characteristic of the object includes displaying a rectangle having a length based on the value of the second characteristic (see explanation on claim 1).

Regarding Claim 31:

displaying the rectangle having a color based on the value of a third characteristic of the object.
the step of displaying an indication of a value of the second characteristic of the corresponding object includes displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the second characteristic (see explanation on claim 1).

Regarding Claim 33:

the plurality of portions are first portions, and the at least one object is a first object; and
the method further comprises
allocating a plurality of second portions of the display to correspond to the plurality of
separate ranges of the first characteristic; and

1 at each of the plurality of second portions, displaying an indication of a value of the
2 second characteristic of at least one second object in the range of the first characteristic to which
3 that second portion corresponds (see explanation on claim 1).
4

5 **Regarding Claim 34:**

6 the first portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the second
7 portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments (see explanation on claim 5).
8
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13 **Regarding claim 36:**

14 the first shapes are rectangles; and the second shapes are rectangles (see explanation on claim 1).
15

16 **Regarding Claim 37:**

17 The method of claim 35, wherein: the first shapes are rectangles; and each first shape indicates
18 the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of that rectangle (see explanation on
19 claim 1).
20

21 **Regarding Claim 38:**

1 The method of claim 35, wherein: the second shapes are rectangles; and each second shape
2 indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle (see
3 explanation on claim 1).

4
5 **Regarding Claim 39:**

6 each first shape indicates the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of the
7 rectangle that is that first shape; each second shape indicates the value of the second particular
8 characteristic by the length of the rectangle that is that second shape; and the lengths of the
9 rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the rectangles that are the
10 first shapes (see explanation on claim 1).

11
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14 **Regarding Claim 40:**

15 second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that venture capital firm by the color of
16 the second shape (see explanation on claim 1).

17
18 **Regarding Claim 42:**

19 The method of claim 41, wherein: the first shapes are rectangles; and the second shapes are
20 rectangles (see explanation on claim 1).

21
22 **Regarding Claim 43:**

1 The method of claim 41, wherein: the first shapes are rectangles; and
2 each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of that rectangle (see
3 explanation on claim 1).

4
5 **Regarding Claim 44:**

6 the second shapes are rectangles; and each second shape indicates the value of the second
7 particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle (see explanation on claim 1).

8
9 **Claim 45:**

10 each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of the rectangle that is
11 that first shape;

12 each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of the
13 rectangle that is that second shape; and

14 the lengths of the rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the
15 rectangles that are the first shapes (see explanation on claim 1).

16
17 **Claim 46:**

18 the second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that object by the color of the
19 second shape (see explanation on claim 1).

20

21

22

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ***Daniel S. Felten*** whose telephone number is (703) 305-0724. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:00AM to 5:30PM Monday-Thursday. Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application or its proceedings should be directed to the Customer Service Office (703) 306-5631, or the examiner's supervisor ***Vincent Millin*** whose telephone number is (703) 308-1065.

7. Response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

1
2 for formal communications intended for entry, or (703) 305-0040, for informal or draft
3 communications, please label "Proposed" or "Draft".

4 Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35
5 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be
6 addressed to *[daniel.felten@uspto.gov]*.

7 All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO
8 employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that
9 sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly
10 signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly
11 set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and
12 Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1 195 OG 89.

13
14
15 **DSF**
16 **February 13, 2003**



VINCENT MILLIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3800